Top Secret

BOLIVIA: Coup Plotting

An attempted coup by the military against President Gueiler could come within the next 48 hours. The principal plotter, General Garcia Meza, commandant of the military academy in La Paz, received crucial regional support over the weekend from General Echeverria, commander of the Army Second Corps in Santa Cruz. The conspirators claim that the present government is incompetent and unable to stem what they see as a growing threat from the left. Their motives also reflect their fundamental reluctance to yield power to civilians. Any coup attempt probably would provoke a violent civilian response.

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